

Name of Committee: Override Study Committee

Meeting Date: March 12, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Town Hall- 5th Floor School Committee Room

Members Present:

X	Clifford Brown		Kevin Lang		Beth Jackson Stram
X	Alberto Chang		Carol Levin	X	Timothy Sullivan
X	Chad Ellis	X	Sergio Modigliani	X	Ann Connolly Tolkoff
X	Janet Gelbart	X	Lee Selwyn	X	Dick Benka – Co-Chair
	Michael Glover	X	Lisa Serafin Sheehan	X	Susan Wolf Ditkoff – Co-Chair
	Carol Kamin	X	James Stergios		

Staff Present: Melissa Goff, Assistant Town Administrator

Topic: Approval of minutes

The minutes from the 2/26/14 meeting were approved with Cliff Brown abstaining.

Ann Connolly Tolkoff gave the Committee the update that the students from the MIT Tiger Lab program have chosen to work with the Demographic Subcommittee. They are very excited to work with these students and hope to develop a model for enrollment projections that can be used by the School Department.

Susan Wolf Ditkoff told the committee that the School Committee and Advisory Committee have both expressed an interest in getting an update on the work of the OSC. They are planning an update for the Advisory Committee on 4/2, and would like for the chair of each subcommittee to try and attend. This will take the place of the full OSC meeting for that week. Tim Sullivan said that it would be helpful to have a calendar to work off of. Sergio Modigliani said that a joint meeting with the School Committee and Advisory Committee would be advantageous. Ann asked if there was a possibility to ask for public input in a more formal manner. Susan said it was something they need to consider.

Topic: Capital Subcommittee Report

Lisa Serafin Sheehan presented the Capital Subcommittee's findings to date. A copy of the presentation (03_12_14 OSC Capital Subcommittee presentation) can be found here:

http://www.brooklinema.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=1797

Sergio made the clarification that the Old Lincoln School will be used as swing space and to perform the function of picking up overflow demands until additional space can be created. The building will have a dual role until about 2018 or 2019 when additional space can be created. In 2015 it will be used as overflow because there will not be any construction at that point. The students will likely come from the upper grades, but it is not clear which schools yet.

The committee discussed the BEEP program and the pros and cons of keeping a program in each building vs. clustering a group of programs. Three BEEP programs remain in the schools due to

OT/PT needs that can be better addressed in these buildings. They discussed different implications an expand in place approach had on common areas vs. a policy decision to increase class size.

Lisa said that the MSBA has not raised the caps on reimbursement based on increased construction costs. The subcommittee is using the existing schedule, but hope that it could be higher than what they are assuming.

Lee Selwyn asked what happens to the Devotion project if the override fails. It was noted that there is currently \$54M in the CIP for this project which would be freed up for the Driscoll School project if a debt exclusion passed. Lee said he was concerned about overbuilding space that may not be needed if there were policy or practice changes in the system. He is concerned about projects presented as contingent on an override passing. The Committee discussed how best to present scenarios under various policy changes. Reductions by two have been presented today, but what about the upper level of what could be done?

Ann said that there are several examples of Town departments needing outside groups. The Fire Department relies upon mutual aid; the Library lends materials to non-Brookline residents. She doesn't see the METCO and Material Fee programs as any different. The relationship is just as important. The School system needs these programs. To what end is the Committee spending time on this issue? Lee said he thinks it's important for people to understand that the Town is providing a \$4.2M subsidy to the City of Boston to educate its children. Susan said that part of the mandate of the OSC is to present the cost implications of policy choices. Sergio said that it is the community that must decide to preserve these programs, not individuals. Dick added that we can't say that we can continue everything no matter what it costs, especially in the face of the numbers presented as a possible override.

Jim Stergios asked about the use of the Old Lincoln School and the opportunity cost of leaving the building empty after classrooms have been added. Sergio outlined the value of using the school as swing space. At some point the buildings that have been renovated will cycle back into the CIP. There has been the exploration of selling the property, but it was determined that the gain would be small.

Cliff Brown asked about the timing for work at the Pierce School. Tim said that Pierce should be looked at in the mid-long term and in the context of how to use with the Old Lincoln School. It is a huge project. It would be up next after the expand in place projects are done. Susan added it wouldn't be in the next five years. The Committee discussed MSBA participation and the implications changing the K-8 model might have on the funding and timing of projects.

Topic: Other Business

Next week the School subcommittee will present its findings to the full committee. The meeting can start at 6PM since the subcommittee will not need that time slot.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.